

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicates (FTMS) having transitional metal to silica ratio in the range of 0.34 to 19.57, variable functions resulting from different metal silicate ratios and also having variable functional structure for same transitional metal to silica ratio, exhibiting properties selected from the group comprising of decontaminant, disinfectant, protectant, microbicide or combination thereof and prepared by the process comprising the steps of
 - a. adding a transitional metal salt solution to a soluble alkali silicate solution to form a mixture ;
 - b. forming a precipitate of a transitional metal silicate, and
 - c. washing and drying the precipitate thus formed to obtain the transitional metal silicate characterized in that in step (a), the ratio between the transitional metal salt solution to the alkali silicate solution is varied, the temperature at which the solutions are mixed is varied between 20 to 90 C, and the pH of the medium is varied between extremely acidic condition to extremely basic condition, preparing variable functional structure for same transitional metal to silica ratio at varied conditions, also having variable functional structure for same transitional metal to silica ratio, and said FTMS capable of being immobilized on a suitable material or incorporating into resins and/or coating along with resins on suitable materials.
2. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicates (FTMS) having transitional metal to silica ratio in the range of 0.34 to 19.57, variable functions resulting from different metal silicate ratios and also having variable functional structure for same transitional metal to silica ratio,

exhibiting properties selected from the group comprising of decontaminant, disinfectant, protectant, microbicide or combination thereof and prepared by the process comprising the steps of:

- a. adding a transitional metal salt solution to a soluble alkali silicate solution to form a mixture;
- b. forming a precipitate of a transitional metal silicate, and
- c. washing and drying the precipitate thus formed to obtain the transitional metal silicate characterized in that in step (a), the ratio between the transitional metal salt solution to the alkali silicate solution is varied, the temperature at which the solutions are mixed is varied between 20° to 90° C, and the pH of the medium is varied between extremely acidic condition to extremely basic condition, .

3. (Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein the same are selected from the group consisting of cupric silicate, silver silicate, zinc silicate, manganese silicate, zirconium silicate and combinations thereof.

4. (Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein the transitional metal salt solution is a transitional metal chloride solution or a transitional metal sulphate solution or a transitional metal nitrate solution or any other transitional metal salt solution such as acetate.

5. (Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1,

wherein the alkali silicate solution is sodium silicate or potassium silicate solution or any other alkali silicate solution such as calcium silicate.

6. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the cupric silicate has silicate to copper ratio in the range of 1: 0.78 to 1: 5. 15.

7. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 6, wherein cupric silicate having silicate to copper ratio of about 1: 5. 15 possessed the following properties when prepared under acidic conditions: characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 4. 3; (b) 2.5; (c) 2. 3; (d) 2.0 and (e) 2.0; X-ray diffraction analysis having 3 significant peaks at 16.2, 32. 2 and 39.7 having peak heights of 2128, 1593 and 1470 respectively; exhibiting decontamination property of metals such as arsenic, bacterial disinfecting property, anti-bacterial property, antifungal property, viruses disinfecting property and chemical pollutant decontamination property.

8. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 6, wherein cupric silicate having silicate to copper ratio of about 1:1 possessed the following properties when prepared under neutral conditions: characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 3. 1; (b) 2. 3; (c) 2.0; (d) 1.2 and (e) 0.9; X-ray diffraction analysis having 3 significant peaks at 16.1, 32. 2 and 39. 7 having peak heights of 940,764 and 694 respectively;

exhibiting decontamination property of metals such as arsenic, bacterial disinfecting property and antifungal property.

9. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 6, wherein cupric silicate having silicate to copper ratio of about 1:0. 8 possessed the following properties when prepared under acidic conditions and at 70° C to 90° C: characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 2.2 and (b) 2.0; X-ray diffraction analysis having 3 significant peaks at 16, 32 and 39 having peak heights of 835 706 and 502 respectively, exhibiting decontamination property of metals such as arsenic, and bacterial disinfecting property.

10. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 6, wherein cupric silicate having silicate to copper ratio of about 1: 0. 8 possessed the following properties when prepared under basic conditions: characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 3.7 and (b) 3.2 and (c) 2.6; X-ray diffraction analysis having 1 significant peak at 26.64 having peak height of 152.

11. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 6, wherein cupric silicate having silicate to copper ratio of about 1: 0. 53. possessed the following properties when prepared under extremely acidic conditions : characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 2.1, (b) 2.0 and (c) 2. 1;

X-ray diffraction analysis having 3 significant peaks at 16.1, 32.2 and 39. 71 having peak heights of 400, 394 and 330 respectively;

exhibiting decontamination property of metals such as arsenic and bacterial disinfecting property.

12. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 6, wherein cupric silicate having silicate to copper ratio of about 1:0.34 possessed the following properties when prepared under extremely acidic conditions: characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 2.1, and (b) 2.0;

X-ray diffraction analysis having 3 significant peaks at 16.2, 32. 3 and 39. 8 having peak heights of 541, 414 and 365 respectively;

exhibiting decontamination property of metals such as arsenic and bacterial disinfecting property.

13. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the zinc silicate has silicate to zinc ratio in the range of 1: 2.46 to 1: 12. 1 3.

14. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 13, wherein zinc silicate having silicate to zinc ratio of about 1: 12.13 possessed the following properties when prepared under neutral conditions:

characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 5.4 ; (b) 4. 5; (c) 2.5; (d) 2.1 and (e) 2.0; X-ray diffraction analysis having 3 significant peaks

at 32. 7, 59.5 and 26. 2 having peak heights of 444,307 and 263 respectively, decontamination property of metals such as arsenic, bacterial disinfecting property and anti- bacterial property.

15. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 13, wherein zinc silicate having silicate to zinc ratio of about 1: 2.46 possessed the following properties when prepared under extremely acidic conditions: characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 4. 3; (b) 4.0; (c) 2.5; (d) 1. 8 and (e) 2.0; X-ray diffraction analysis having 3 significant peaks at 11.0, 33. 5 and 32. 8 having peak heights of 2079, 835 and 664 respectively; exhibiting decontamination property of metals such as arsenic-and bacterial disinfecting property.

16.. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the silver silicate has silicate to silver ratio in the range of 1: 1.04 to 1: 19.57.

17. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 16, wherein silver silicate having silicate to silver ratio of about 1: 19.57 possessed the following properties when prepared under neutral conditions: characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 4.3; (b) 2.3; (c) 3.9 and (d) 2.0; X-ray diffraction analysis having 3 significant peaks at 32. 2, 46. 2 and 27.8 having peak heights of 3945,2421 and 1835 respectively; exhibiting bacterial disinfecting property.

18. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 16, wherein silver silicate having silicate to silver ratio of about 1: 1.04 possessed the following properties when prepared under extremely acidic conditions: characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 4. 3; (b) 4.0 and (c) 1.9; X-ray-diffraction analysis having 3 significant peaks at 29. 3, 47. 6 and 42. 3 having peak heights of 2217, 684 and 674 respectively; exhibiting decontamination property of metals such as arsenic and bacterial disinfecting property.

19. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the manganese silicate has silicate to manganese ratio in the range of 1:1. 94 to 1: 1.09.

20. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 19, wherein manganese silicate having silicate to manganese ratio of about 1: 1.94 possessed the following properties when prepared under neutral conditions: characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 1. 93 and (b) 2.06; X-ray diffraction analysis having 1 significant peak at 30. 6 having peak height of 148.0; exhibiting bacterial disinfecting property.

21. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 19, wherein manganese

silicate having silicate to manganese ratio of about 1:1.09 possessed the following properties when prepared under extremely acidic conditions:

characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 4.3; (b) 4.1; (c) 2.1; (d) 2.1; (e) 2.0 and (f) 1.9; - X-ray diffraction analysis having 1 significant peak at 24.6 having peak height of 32.8; exhibiting bacterial disinfecting property.

22. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the zirconium silicate has silicate to zirconium ratio in the range of 1:2.90 to 1:0.77.

23. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 22, wherein zirconium silicate having silicate to zirconium ratio of about 1:2.90 possessed the following properties when prepared und decontamination property of metals such as arsenic at neutral conditions: characteristic g values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 4.4; (b) 4.1; (c) 2.2; (d) 2.3; (e) 2.1 and (f) 1.2; exhibiting decontamination property of metals such as arsenic.

24. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 22, wherein zirconium silicate having silicate to zirconium ratio of about 1:0.77 possessed the following properties when prepared under extremely acidic conditions:

characteristic values of the peaks as obtained by the electron spin resonance spectrometer being (a) 4.3; (b) 2.8; (c) 1.9; (d) 1.2; (e) 1.0 and (f) 0.9; X-ray diffraction analysis having 1 significant peak at 10.8 having peak height of 84.80;

exhibiting and bacterial disinfecting property.

25. (Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in ~~claims 1 or 2, claim~~ 1, wherein the same is effective as a decontaminant of metals, chemicals, pesticides, microbes or combinations thereof.

26. (Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in ~~claims 1 or 2 claim~~ 1, wherein the same is effective as a disinfectant of a protozoan, a bacteria, a fungus, a virus, a microbicide or combinations thereof.

27. (Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the same is effective as a detoxificant of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, an oxide of nitrogen, a hydrocarbon, tobacco tar, nicotine, or toxic gases or chemical conversion of toxic gases and/or toxic chemical containing gases into their non-toxic form, or combinations thereof.

28. (Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the same is effective as a decontaminant of trihalomethanes, proteins, semi-volatile organic compounds, volatile organic compounds, phenols, polychlorinated biphenyls and engine combustion gas.

29. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 26, wherein the bacteria is coliform bacteria, a Gram positive bacteria, a Gram negative bacteria or combinations thereof.

30. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 26, wherein the fungus is pathogenic fungi such as Sclerotium rolfsii, Rhizoctonia solani, Fusarium oxysporum, Pyricularia oryzae or combinations thereof.

31. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 26, wherein the virus is infective in nature.

32. (Original) A process for preparing immobilized functional transitional metal silicates (FTMS) having transitional metal to silica ratio in the range of 0.34 to 19.57, having variable structure for same transitional metal to silica ratio, also having the variable functional structure for same transitional metal to silica ratio, exhibiting properties selected from the group comprising of decontaminant, disinfectant, protectant, microbicide or combination thereof, said process comprising the steps of:

- a. adding a transitional metal salt solution to a substrate to form a first product;
- b. adding a solution comprising a silicate to the first product to form a second product, and
- c. removing the non-immobilized material from the second product to form the immobilized transition metal silicate; characterized in that the amount of the transitional metal salt solution, the alkali silicate solution added are varied, temperature at which the solutions are mixed is varied between 20° to 90° C, and the pH of the medium is varied between extremely acidic condition to extremely basic condition.

33. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 32 wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of agropolymers, activated alumina, aluminium oxide, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel and combinations thereof.

34. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 32 wherein the resins are selected from the group consisting of vinyl ester resin, a bisphenol resin, an isophthalic food grade resin and combinations thereof.

35. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel, and functional transitional metal silicates incorporated resins and functional transition metal silicate containing resin coated sand are capable of decontaminating metals such as arsenic, mercury, etc. , and this property enables immobilized functional transition metal silicates utility to purify metal contaminated drinking water, ground water and any other metal polluted aqueous streams.

36. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel, and functional transitional metal silicates incorporated resins and functional transition metal silicate containing resin coated sand are capable of disinfecting coliform bacteria, from water and this property enables immobilized functional transition metal silicate utility to purify water free of harmful microbes.

37. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel, and functional transition metal silicates incorporated resins and functional transition metal silicate containing resin coated sand are capable of detoxifying toxic gases such as carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxide and hydrocarbons from combustion gases and this property enables these immobilized functional transition metal silicate containing filters usage as toxic air purifiers, chemical purifiers, chemical conversion of toxic gases and/or toxic chemical containing gases into their non-toxic form.

38. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel and functional transition metal silicates incorporated resins and functional transition metal silicate containing resin coated sand are capable of decontaminating pesticides such as chlorinated hydrocarbons (such as endosulphan), synthetic pyrethroides (such as cypermethrin) organophosphates (such as chloripyriphos) and this property enables these immobilized functional transition metal silicates as decontaminants of pesticides.

39. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel and functional transition metal silicates incorporated resins and functional transition metal silicate containing resin coated sand are capable of decontaminating proteins

from an aqueous medium enabling their usage to remove or decontaminate proteins from waste waters generating from bioprocess industry, to prevent undesirable protein contamination.

40. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel and functional transition metal silicates incorporated resins and functional transition metal silicate containing resin coated sand are capable of decontaminating fungus from water and this property enables the usage of immobilized functional transition metal silicates for protection and or control of fungal infections.

41. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is immobilized on agropolymers are capable of decontaminating protozoan: (*Cryptosporidium parvum*) from water and this property enables the usage of immobilized functional transition metal silicates for protection and or control of protozoan infections.

42. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel are capable of decontaminating polio viruses, rota viruses from water and this property enables their usage of immobilized functional transition metal silicates for protection and or control of pathogenic viruses infections.

43. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is

immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel and functional transition metal silicates incorporated resins and functional transition metal silicate containing resin coated sand are capable of decontaminating trihalomethanes selected from the group consisting of chloroform, 1, 1, 1, trichloroethane, tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, bromodichloroethane, dibromochloroethane, tetrachloroethylene, bromoform, 1,2, dichloro-3- bromopropane.

44. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel and functional transition metal silicates incorporated resins such as vinyl ester, bisphenol and isophthalic food grain resins and functional transition metal silicate containing resin coated sand are capable of decontaminating Polychlorinated biphenyls selected from the group consisting of 2, 3-dichlorobiphenyl, trichlorobiphenyl, tetrachlorobiphenyl, pentachlorobiphenyl, hexachlorobiphenyl, heptachlorobiphenyl, octachlorobiphenyl.

45. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand silica gel and functional transition metal silicates incorporated resins such as vinyl ester, bisphenol and isophthalic food grain resins, and functional transition metal silicate containing resin coated sand are capable of decontaminating volatile organic compounds selected from the group consisting of 1,1,1, trichloroethane; 1, 1, 2-trichloroethane; 1, 3-dichloropropane ; dibromochloromethane; ethane 1,2 dibromo; chlorobenzene; benzene1, 2-dimethyl; benzene1,3-

dimethyl orthoxylene ; benzene1-methylethyl ; ethane1, 1,2,2-tetrachloro ; bromobenzene ; 2-chloro toluene ; benzene, propyl; benzene, 1chloro 4-methyl; benzene 1,2, 3-trimethyl ; 4-iso propyl toluene ; benzene 1. 2-diethyl; benzene 1,2-dichloro; 1. 3- dichlorobenzene; 1, 4-dichlorobenzene; toluene; n-butylbenzene; 1 2-dibromo 3-chloropropane; 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene : naphthalene ; benzene 1,2, 3- trichlor, benzene 1,3,5-trichloro ; benzene1, 3,4-trichloro ; 1, 3-butadiene 1, 1,2,3, 4 ; benzene 2-bromo 1,3, 5; nitrobenzene; styrene; benzylbenzoate ; 1, 2, 3,4-tetramethylbenzene ; benzene 1-chloro2-propyl ; 4- bromo 3-chloroanilene.

46. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel and functional transition metal silicates incorporated resins such as vinyl ester, bisphenol and isophthalic food grain resins, and functional transition metal silicate containing resin coated sand are capable of decontaminating semi volatile organic compounds selected from the group consisting of 1,4-dichloro ; ethane hexachloro; benzene 1,2, 3, trichloro ; 1, 3 butadiene,1,1,2, 3, 4 ; naphthalene, 2-chloro; acenephthylene; acenaphthene ; phenol, 2,4-bis(1, 1-imet) ; diethyl phthalate ; fluorene; benzenel- chloro-3phenol ; diphenylamine; 4-bromophenyl-phenylether ; benzene, hexachloro; phenantherene; anthracene; dibutyl phthalate ; fluoranthene; pyrene; benzyl butyl phthalate; chrysene; bis (2-ethylhexy) phthalate ; phenol, 2, 3, 4, 5-tetrabrom ; di-n-octyl phthalate; benzo (b) fluoranthene ; benzo (k) fluoranthene ; benzo (a) pyrene; indeno (1, 2,3-cd) pyrene; dibenzo (a, h) anthracene; benzo (g, h, l) perylene.

47. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is

immobilized on materials such as activated alumina, aluminium oxide, agropolymers, cellulose, quartz sand, silica gel and functional transition metal silicates incorporated resins such as vinyl ester, bisphenol and isophthalic food grain resins, and functional transition metal silicates containing resin coated sand are capable of decontaminating phenols such as benzoic acid; 2,4, 5-trichlorophenol; 3-nitroaniline ; 3-nitrophenol ; 4-nitrophenol ; 2,4-dinitrophenol ; 4-nitroaniline ; pentachlorophenol.

48. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is incorporated into resins and the resin is coated on quartz sand or the quartz sand coated with functional transitional metal silicate have utility of decontamination and disinfection in high temperature zones such as boilersetc., due to thermo stability of this material.

49. (Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1, wherein the same exhibited microbicidal nature against, bacteria, fungus and viruses enabling functional transition metal silicates usage as microbicides.

50. (Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1, wherein the same possesses high thermal stability, decontamination and disinfection property and can be used in high temperature zones such as those existing in boilers.

51. (Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1, wherein the same having varied metal silicate ratio exhibiting varied functions

gives a method to obtain selective conjugates of transition metals along with silicates for obtaining functionally effective functional transition metal silicates to use in various other applications such as manufacturing of catalysts, and hybridizing or doping with zeolites to impart desirable properties such as anti-microbial nature etc.

52. (Original) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the same is capable of disinfecting gram positive and gram negative bacteria, fungus, and viruses enabling the usage of these novel functional transition metal silicates in detergents, deodorants, cleaning solutions, seed coat treatments, disinfectants, paints, plastics, paper, shampoos etc, for protection against microbial infections.

53.(Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in ~~any one of the aforesaid claims~~ claim 1, wherein achieving of an inclusion of a desired functionality in a selected functional transition metal silicate is attainable by optimization of synthetic conditions out of variable functions resulting from different metal silicate ratios (Examples: Inclusion of arsenic sequestration ability into silver silicate, inclusion of bacterial decontamination property into zirconium silicate, inclusion of effective bactericidal and fungicidal property into cupric silicate).

54. (Currently amended) Functional transitional metal silicate as claimed in ~~any one of the aforesaid claims~~ claim 1, wherein achieving of an inclusion of a desired functionality in a selected functional transition metal silicate is attainable by optimization of synthetic conditions

out of variable functional structures for same transitional metal to silica ratio (Example: cupric silicate having same silicate to copper ratio when prepared under acidic conditions had entirely different functional structure as compared to cupric silicate having same silicate to copper ratio and prepared under basic conditions).